



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1988/30/Add.7
6 January 1988

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Forty-fourth session
Item 16 of the provisional agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE
SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID

Reports submitted by States parties under
article VII of the Convention

Addendum

BANGLADESH

[4 January 1988]

1. Though Bangladesh is a multiracial country, it stands always against the concept of racial discrimination and gives active support to international measures to eradicate apartheid. Bangladesh has no racial problem and as such no special legislative and judicial measures are required to be taken for elimination of apartheid.

2. The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has guaranteed certain fundamental rights of the citizens which are directed against inequality and discrimination. Articles 28 and 29 of the Constitution which contain prohibition against any discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, are instances of the general rule of equality guaranteed in Article 27. According to Article 28 of the Constitution, there shall be no discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. As such no citizen is subjected to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to access to any place of public entertainment or resort, or admission to any educational institution.

3. Article 29 of the Constitution ensures equality of opportunity for all citizens in respect of employment or office in the service of the Republic. No citizen of the State can be deprived of equal opportunity in this respect on grounds of religious belief, race, caste, sex or place of birth. However, there are some special provisions in the Constitution to bring backward sections of citizens on equal footing with others in respect of securing their adequate representation in the service of the Republic. These exceptions are made to the advantage of backward sections of people in order to resist discrimination and to maintain privilege of equality.

4. Besides the aforesaid constitutional safeguards against discrimination, there are also penal provisions for offences relating to religion. Injuring or defiling place of worship for insulting religion of any class, deliberate acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class, disturbing religious assembly, deliberately wounding religious feelings and faith of any person etc. are punishable offences under the Bangladesh Penal Code.

5. To enjoy the protection of law, and to be treated in accordance with law, and only in accordance with law, is the inalienable right of every citizen of Bangladesh, and of every other person for the time being within Bangladesh, and in particular no action detrimental to the life, liberty, body, reputation or property of any person shall be taken except in accordance with law. This is guaranteed by Articles 31 and 32 of the Constitution.

6. Bangladesh believes that apartheid is a gross violation of human rights. It is virtually a crime against humanity. So it strongly condemns the racist régime of South Africa and its illegal occupation of Namibia. Bangladesh fully supports all the United Nations resolutions on the question of apartheid in South Africa. It has no direct or indirect relationship with the South African Government.